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THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

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Brian Brodersen Study
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To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

"Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all"
- Isaac Watts
Oh the Wonderful Cross

- The theme of Galatians is the revolutionary power of God's grace
- Galatia was a Roman province in Turkey named after the Celtic tribes that settled there originally from Gaul (France)
- Paul visited on first missionary journey
- The occasion of the letter was false teachers challenging Paul's teachings
- This letter is written to prove Paul's apostleship and set forth doctrine
- First two chapters are historical narrative about Paul not found in Acts
- Doctrinally, there are strong similarities with Romans. Both epistles played a major role in the Protestant Reformation.
- "An understanding of the grace of God is vital to a healthy and spiritually prosperous Christian life. It is the primary doctrine of the New Testament. If we don't get grace, we won't get the Christian life the way God intends"
  - Brian Bradersen
- Being a Christian is not about meticulously following a list of rules but loving Him Who first loved us, and then desiring to serve Him (bondservant)

Living in the freedom that comes from living in the fullness of God's grace

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

GALATIANS

GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense

FAITH
Forsaking All I Trust Him

Always the Trinity

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia: not just Paul

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Deserting the Gospel isn't just changing doctrine but leaving Christ

No Other Gospel

Good companion verses in Hebrews

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Angels with other messages are fallen angels

10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

God has the last word

Very clear the Gospel is God's last word to humanity

The Gospel is polarizing

The cults always reject salvation by grace (not works) and/or by faith (not universalism - we must believe)

Paul's ministry to the Gentiles is an example of God working in ways we don't expect

v. 1 - Paul begins with the title his detractors are denying him. An apostle is one sent from a higher authority. God appoints people to Christian leadership.

The apostles were speaking on God's behalf. Grace and peace from God intro is the New Testament version of thus says the Lord.

When Paul writes to individuals (i.e. Titus and Timothy) he adds mercy to the salutation.

v. 4 - "gave Himself for our sins" - we see the nature of Christ's death (a sacrifice for sins), the object of Christ's death was to deliver or rescue us from this present evil age, and the origin of the death of Christ was the will of God the Father

The New Testament has a two-age model: this age and the age to come. The age to come has arrived in some sense (already/not yet). "The Christian life is living in this present evil age the life of the age to come"
- John Stott

the most dramatic conversions in the Bible: Paul and Nebuchadnezzar

The message of free grace is also a message of human sinfulness

↓ Powerful verse

Paul Called by God

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that
was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive
it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through
a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my for-
mer life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God vio-
lently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism
beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely
zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he
who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by
his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I
might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately
consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those
who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and
returned again to Damascus.

Arabia in N.T. Good to share with Muslims

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit
Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none
of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. 20 (In what
I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) 21 Then I went
into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was still unknown
in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They
only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now
preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 And they glori-
fied God because of me.

Compare John 1 as many as received Him

Before Paul's birth like Jeremiah's call

Paul had wilderness years like Moses, David and Elijah

Syria in the New Testament

God first works in a man before He works through a man

Paul's ministry didn't begin immediately Always a maturing

Paul Accepted by the Apostles

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem
with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up
because of a revelation and set before them (though privately
before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim

How do we recognize the true Gospel? (John Stott)
- it is the gospel of the free grace of God - the substance
- the source - the Gospel of the Apostles (Apostle's Cre
-

The other apostles had a three year training during Jesus' ministry, Paul had this training in Arabia.

What are we freed from?

1. Freedom from bondage to sin
2. Freedom from the need for the world's approval
3. Freedom from legalism and bondage to religious rituals
4. Freedom from racial and cultural division

- Legalism is adding to what God said

5. Freedom from judgmentalism and a critical spirit
6. Freedom to display the fruits of the spirit

- The more you grow in grace, the less judgmental and critical you become
- "Grace translates into graciousness" - Brian Brodersen

Revival is an outpouring of God's grace in a community

Grace not only saves us but sanctifies us

In Galatians, Paul is arguably at his most intense and impassioned because the topic is the Gospel and for Paul the Gospel is everything.

The false teachers weren't suggesting that the Galatian Christians return to idolatry or open sin, but that they become externally religious (legalism and rituals)

Paul contended for the Gospel of grace, something every generation of Christians must do in some w

among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running
or had not run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me,
was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. 4 Yet
because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped
in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that
they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield
in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gos-
pel might be preserved for you. 6 And from those who seemed
to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me;
God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influen-
tial added nothing to me. 7 On the contrary, when they saw
that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircum-
cised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the
circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apos-
tolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for
mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John,
who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to
me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me,
that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I
was eager to do.

Similar to what the religious leaders did in Jesus' ministry

False teachers promote legalism to build their own authority

Three pillars of the early church. James was Jesus brother. Focused on practical

Cephas is Peter. John is the writer of the Gospel.

Antioch is where believers were first called Christians. NW Syria.

Paul Opposes Peter

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his
face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men
came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when
they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the cir-
cumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically
along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their
hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step

This is the last faux pas of Peter we re about

Paul is not inferior to the other apostles, but he worked with them. Compare II Peter 3:15. Christian work always integrates with the broader body of Christ

When Paul says it is a perversion of the Gospel, it is literally a reversal of the Gospel

What is the Gospel?
- The Gospel is Christ died for our sins and rose the third day
- All who believe in Jesus will be forever saved
- We receive the gaurantee of our future glory

Nothing can be added to the Gospel without losing it. The Gospel is unalterable.

Sanctification is part of justification. The Gospel saves us forever.

The Gospel is the centerpiece of Christian faith. "The Gospel is how God transforms people, churches, and communities" - Timothy Kelle

Paul didn't only preach the Gospel to pagans but to Christians and himself. Sharing the implications of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension. This produces our sanctification.

Christianity would have become another sect of Judaism without Paul, with limited appeal.

Paul was viewed as radical by the other apostles because the Gospel had been

James was probably a carpenter like Jesus. Head of the Jerusalem church.

with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

Compromise in Jerusalem

In Antioch the pure Gospel was retained

Justified by Faith

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Paul uses this verbiage a lot in Romans

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

No hyper-grace Romans 6-7

Phillips, Craig and Dean song based on this verse

what Christ life is about

must be personal

Why the cults deny deity of Christ

Substitutionary death main reason Christ died. Otherwise Jesus would just be an ordinary man.

By Faith, or by Works of the Law?

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with

v. 4 persecution is stronger when grace is preached v. under legalism

"The fact that we are even believers is astounding in itself"
- Brian Brodersen

Even though Paul was initially an unbeliever, God's sovreignty was building the platform for Paul to minister in the future. God redeems believers' pre-Christian experiences.

Times God tried to reach Paul before his conversion:
- During Jesus' ministry
- Stephen's testimony
- His mentor Gamaliel's positive words toward Christian faith

always a person involved in another's conversion

Paul's pre-Christian life is an interplay between divine election and free will

God reveals His son through people made in His image

Typical progression
- Book of nature (creation)
- Book of others (testimony)
- Book of Scripture (revelation)

Things to know about our calling:
- God has seperated us, laying the foundation even before our birth
- There is a moment when we accept the call by grace
- We are called to serve
- God has a unique calling for each one of us and there is no insignificant role

Abraham is always the model for salvation

faith— 6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to
him as righteousness"?

7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of
Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would jus-
tify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to
Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." 9 So
then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham,
the man of faith.

Scripture foreseeing - what the Old Testament is about

always the same Gospel. Gospel of the grace of God and gospel of the kingdom just different emphases

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse;
for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all
things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." 11 Now
it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for
"The righteous shall live by faith." 12 But the law is not of faith,
rather "The one who does them shall live by them." 13 Christ
redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse
for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged
on a tree"— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham
might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the prom-
ised Spirit through faith.

like Ja... guilty in one poi... of the law, gu... of all

the Crucifixio... predicte... in advance

quoted four times in Scripture with different emphases (Habakkuk, Romans, Galations and Hebrews)

The Law and the Promise

15 To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-
made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been
ratified. 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to
his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to
many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is
Christ. 17 This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years
afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by

430 years - one of two silent periods in O.T. The other before Christ.

- Never under-estimate God's grace
- Many Christians who are saved by grace don't walk in grace

"Those who do the least for the kingdom criticize those who do the most for the kingdom" - Brian Brodersen

Contending for Grace

- Grace is God's undeserved favor that saves us, sanctifies us, and leads us safely home
- From the sixth to 16th century, the Gospel of grace went into obscurity. The rediscovery brought a great spiritual revolution.
- "Salvation by grace alone is not just one doctrine among others. It is the article by which the church stands or falls. It is hard to accept and hard to hold on to" - Martin Luther
- The theme of the New Testament is the grace of God
- Religion is the number one enemy of grace (any system depending on human merit for Divine acceptance and approval). All religions accept for Christianity are void of grace.
- The hostility against Jesus was almost always based on acts of grace
- Scripture teaches the grace first principle. Good works and a changed life follow receiving God's grace
- When we contend for grace, we must remember our experience with grace.
- We need to meditate on the declarations of grace in the Gospels, Romans, Galatians and Ephesians (Romans 8 is the pinnicle chapter of God's grace)
- We must exemplify grace. More than doctrinal subscription. Worked and practiced

Argument for a recent creation of humanity: God always has a plan for man and seemed to quickly put man under law as a guardian

God, so as to make the promise void. 18 For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. 20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Good trinity scripture. Elohim - plurality

21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Who is a child of God? →

Many in our culture want this equality without Christ

Sons and Heirs

4 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when

- Abrahamic covenant unconditional between two parties
- Mosaic covenant conditional with a mediator

Equality: A Gospel Truth

- God has made it clear He is no respecter of persons
- "Prejudice and inequality are overruled by the Gospel" - Brian Brodersen
- The Hebrew word for Gentiles means "nations" (Gen. 10). Especially Japheth.
- Categories:
  - Jew or Greek - race
  - slave or free - class
  - male and female - gender
- Our churches should be racially integrated reflecting the community they are in
- Our churches should be diverse socio-economically
- Our churches should be places where both men and women can flourish in their God-given callings
- Ancient societies viewed slavery as the norm. Christianity ended it (Wilberforce, Newton, Lincoln, etc.)
- Prejudice in the church destroys Christian unity (catholic meaning universal)
- "We must resist the temptation of seeing ourselves or our churches as superior to other believers" - Brian Brodersen

- Religion is external, the Gospel is internal
- God is re-creating the universe, starting with Jesus' resurrection and then believers

the root word of incarnation is carne, or flesh. Literally "in flesh"

Jesus was part of the three institutions God set up.
- born of a woman (the family)
- born under the law (the government)
- He set up the third (the church)

the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Abba - a term of endearment

No longer a slave to performance based acceptance

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

v. 9 - Calvinism and Arminianism together

12 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. 18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! 20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Angel means messenger aggelos Greek

Why many believe Paul's thorn in the flesh was vision related

In the Biblical picture, the Son of God has equality with God as the creator who took on flesh. Later stanzas of Hark the Herald Angels Sing has good incarnation theology

Crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20)

- Paul is reminding Peter about the truth of the Gospel
- "No one has understood Christianity without understanding the doctrine of justification by faith" - John Stott
- In order to be saved by Christ, we have to admit we're sinners
- The function of the law is to show us our guilt and bring us to the Savior
- Paul uses the past tense of crucified with Christ (it is finished - tetelestai)
- The crucified life is not works based. Already accomplished
- "Christ lives in me" summary of the Christian life. The life of God in the soul of man

What does this look like?
- I live by faith in what Christ has done
  - He lived the perfect life
  - He died for me
  - He rose from the dead
  - He sent His Spirit
- I live by faith in what Christ is doing now (a living relationship with a person vs. subjection to a system)
- When you have a living faith, the Bible comes alive, with wisdom for application and strength to obey
- I have faith in who Jesus is

Was Mt. Sinai in Arabia?
Possibilities:
- the geography was different
- Wilderness wandering was in Arabia (local legends suggest this)

Example of Hagar and Sarah

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not
listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons,
one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of
the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free
woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be inter-
preted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from
Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now
Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the pres-
ent Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the
Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written,

New Jerusalem - agrees with Revelation 21-22

"Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband."

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But
just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh per-
secuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it
is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave
woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not
inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 So, brothers, we are
not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Some use this to claim Genesis isn't historic But it has an allegorical application, not that the stories aren't true. Paul taught Adam as a real person. Allegory in the Bible is personal application of real past events (I Cor. 10:11-13)

Christ Has Set Us Free

Freedom is never free. Christ died for our freedom.

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision,
Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every

I, Paul, in verse two. Always worth noting when Paul is speaking and when it is the Lord directly (compare I Corinthians 7)

O Foolish Galatians (Gal. 3:1-9)

- Paul seeks to correct the Galatians' error and set them back on the path to grace
- Legalism brings a halt to moves of the Spirit
- Paul appeals to their own experience but also to Scripture
- Paul's five questions
  - Who has bewitched you?
  - How did you receive the Spirit?
  - Can the flesh save us?
  - Was suffering in vain?
  - Are miracles by faith or by law?
- Paul was a master of the Scriptures
- The false teachers appealed to Moses, Paul went even further back to Abraham (like Jesus did when asked about divorce)
- What the Galatians did foolishly:
  - we are foolish if we think we need to add anything to Christ's finished work
  - we are foolish if we think we can obtain salvation by human effort
  - we are foolish when we think the flesh is the way to spiritual maturity You can be devoutly religious yet in the flesh
- Christians often think they are justified by faith but sanctified by works

"the whole law" - disproves doctrine such as requiring a Saturday Sabbath but not other parts of the law

leaven can be open sin in I Corinth. or legalism here. Always negative.

The Christian view of freedom. Freedom to serve God and others

v. 13 NLT "don't use freedom to satisfy your sinful nature"

Circumcision to the Jew is what baptism is to the Christian

man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep
the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would
be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For
through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the
hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumci-
sion nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith
working through love. no difference Jew or Gentile

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying
the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you.
9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in
the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is
troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I,
brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being perse-
cuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.
12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use
your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love
serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and
devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by
one another. On a societal level, free nations decay when liberty is used for the flesh

Keep in Step with the Spirit ↓ key to freedom

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the
desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against
the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for
these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the
things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are
not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident:
sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery,

When we're with the Lord

persecution stronger when focus is grace before his conversion

The sins are in the same category of works of the flesh

"If you have the past tense of salvation, we are assured of the present and future tenses"
- Brian Brodersen

"The future God has for us is infinetely better than the present"
-Brian Brodersen

Redeemed from the Curse of the Law (Gal. 3:10-14)

- Paul quotes from Deuteronomy (importance of that book)
- Two major curses in Scripture
  - the curse of sin (Gen. 3) - in effect until Christ comes
  - the curse of the law - removed in Christ
- Romans, Galatians and Hebrews all have this teaching - but different emphases
- Galatians 3 and 4 undoes the teachings of false teachers by showing what the law is all about
- The blessing of Abraham is:
  - justification (righteous before God)
  - regeneration (born into family of God)
- Does the law have a role in our sanctification? (growth in Christian maturity) - no. Our relationship with God is not in legal terms, but cultivating a deeper love for God.
- The more we realize who Jesus is and what He did for us, we grow in love for God (transformative)

The Flesh, the Kingdom and the Cross (Gal. 5:17-21) (compare with Romans 1 and I Corinthians 6)

- In our flesh, we may not engage with all these things, but we do some of them
- Sexual immorality - Greek word Porneia
- Sorcery - Greek word Pharmakeia - illicit drug use (called witchcraft or magic because drugs were used that way in ancient times)

"Liberty improperly used leads us back to bondage"
-Brian Brodersen

"We have had a double emancipation: from the power of the law and from sin" - Brian Brodersen

Choosing the fruit of the Spirit

enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

not exhaustive

not fruits plural. One variety w/ nine flavors

walkin line with

[25] If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

at times we must choose to pursue the fruit of the Spirit

Yielding to the impulses of the Spirit

There is a burden we can bear and a burden we can share (v. 2 and v. 5).

Bear One Another's Burdens

Paul probably has Jonah's mind with fruit of the Spirit

6 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load.

v. 3-5 Paul's word to those doubting their need

not disconnected burden of ministry

[6] Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. [7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Sowing and reaping not only negative

Paul's letters end with postscript

v. 10- one of the few verses about doing good generally even outside the church. Christians have done more social good than any other faith or movement.

law of Christ- because Jesus bore our sins

v. 7 is be sure your sin will find you out in N.T.

The Christian faith is a one another lifestyle

The communion of saints in Apostle's Creed

"We are only something because of God's mercy and grace"
-Brian Brodersen

The Law: Our Tutor to Bring Us to Christ (Gal. 3:15-19)

- What purpose does the law serve?
  1. added because of transgression (to show what sin is)
  2. to keep the people from destruction (so Christ could come)
  3. to keep us under guard
  4. our schoolmaster (Greek word Pedagogue) pointing people to Jesus

- The Ten Commandments is the summary of the broader Mosaic law (600+ commandments)
- Atheists still have a sense they are working for something
- The modern mind has a hard time accepting that God's law is fixed (unchanging)
- You can't be a Christian and not feel the need to be forgiven
- "Before anything else, in relation to man, Jesus is a Savior" - Brian Brodersen
- In salvation, there are two perspectives
  - God's point of view - the moment you put your faith in Christ, you are perfected (positionally)
  - Our point of view - Going deeper and deeper into our relationship with Christ (we can never go deep enough)

The Jewish people are known as the people of the Book. Christians are the people of the Spirit. The Bible is a doorway into the realm of the Spirit.

Repeated elsewhere in epistles

inherit - be heir of

"Against such there is no law" Billy Graham noted there is no law anywhere in the world about having Christian character. We can serve the Lord in this way even amidst persecution

Sowing and Reaping (Gal. 6:7-10)

Our propensity for deception is higher when we want to satisfy the flesh

- Do not be deceived
- language in Ephesians 5
- same context
- Atheism often about lack of accountability
- Atheism is the opiate of the people

v. 15 similar to Gal. 5:6

The remedy to the sins of the flesh is to dive deeper into the Spirit

v. 11 - why we think Paul had eye trouble

new creation:
- new affections
- new purpose
- new power
- new destiny

Final Warning and Benediction

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my
own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in
the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in
order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.
13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep
the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may
boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been
crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision
counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.
16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon
them, and upon the Israel of God.
17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my
body the marks of Jesus.
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,
brothers. Amen.

Purpose of the Gospel
new purpose
Paul concludes discussion
Pride drives false teaching

Galatians 6 - how the body of Christ is to work

Two Greek words for burden in Galatians 6. One is a crushing load. The other a napsack.

sowing and reaping - after its own kind

corruption can be translated destroy, decay or perish

everlasting life = age abiding life (Wuest)

doing good = sowing to the Spirit, living right

due season = ultimately when we're with the Lord

Sons and Heirs (Gal. 4:1-7)

- The law of Moses had three aspects:
  - a legislative part for the nation
  - the ceremonial law
  - the moral law (written on the heart of every human)

Moses represented the law but could not enter the promised land (insufficiency of the law to save).
Joshua could (same root name as Jesus)

- Fullness of time. Why did Jesus come when He did?
  - ease of travel
  - common Greek language
  - hunger for a real faith
  - law of Moses had done its work
  - the timeframe in Daniel had been fulfilled
- What happened?
  1) God sent forth His Son (pre-existant) 2) Both human and Divine
  3) Jesus born in to the Mosaic law
  4) Redemption

Horny, Jeff (2025). "Love nailed: who is obeying the law of Christ?" (looks at Galatians 6)

RESOURCES

Keller, Timothy. (2013) "Galatians for You." Good Book Company (expository Bible study guide)

Luther, Martin (1535). Commentary on Galatians. Kregel Books. (one of the resources that made the Reformation possible)

Stott, John (1984). "The Message of Galatians". InterVarsity Press. (overview used by the British royal family)

Sons and Heirs (continued)

- Other religions have a master/slave relationship
- In Roman times, the wealthy would often adopt slaves as sons to have an heir if they didn't have biological children
- God has adopted children, not grandchildren. There is a positional and experiential side of our salvation
- We know there is a God because we know Him (not only objective facts)
- Abba is an Aramaic word translated into Greek, translated "Papa" in Latin
- Five benefits
  - Protection
  - Provision
  - Guidance
  - Access
  - Unconditional love (includes discipline)

Things People Lean on instead of Christ: Jeremiah
- ethnicity - talents - wealth only legit
- education - appearance - strength boast in C

THE FIVE SOLAS

Sola Scriptura - Scripture alone
Sola Christus - Christ alone
Sola gratia - Graco alone
Sola fide - Faith alone
Sola deo Gloria - To the glory of God alone

This is the Protestant statement of faith

Baptists tend to emphasize Sola Scriptura

Lutherans tend to emphasize Sola Fide

Reformed churches tend to emphasize Sola Gratia

Lay Christians tend to emphasize sola deo gloria

All Christians must emphasize Sola Christus. Centerpiece of all Christian faith

Bear One Another's Burdens (Gal. 6:1-6)

- The three burdens: burden of sin, burden of life, burden of ministry
- "You who are spiritual" - what real spirituality looks like
- God always looking for restoration. People rarely respond positively to harshness
- ways we can bear burdens: pray for people and practical help

What Paul could have boasted in...
- Roman citizenship - Multilingual and university trained
- A cultured person - Jewish expert (Sanhedrin)

Until Christ is Formed in You (Gal. 4:8-20)

- The false teachers were selfish-only concerned about their own popularity
- Christ being formed in you (v.19) what it means to be a Christian. If Christ is in you, there is an internal impetus toward the things of God.
- Five things Paul does as he labors for them
  - Paul continued to love them
  - Paul continued to keep the truth before them
  - Paul continued to explain the Gospel to them
  - Paul continued to pray for them
  - Paul continued to hope for the best
- God is better at convicting others than we are
- We're often part of a process in others' lives
- The seed has to be planted and cultivated before it is harvested

Law and Grace (Gal. 4:21-31)

- The climactic moment of Paul's argument (final argument)
- Paul's argument in three stages:
  - historical (Ishmael and Isaac)
  - symbolic/allegorical (two covenants)
  - personal
- Ishmael's birth a natural birth; Isaac was supernatural (like the new birth)
- Ishmael's religion is what man can do for himself without God's intervention
- Changed lives are empirical evidence for God
- Legalism is making a higher standard than God has
- "The Gospel says grace is not just for the fertile Hagars but the barren Sarahs" - Timothy Keller

false teachers downplay the significance of the Cross

- the cross dealt with man's biggest problem
- the cross is where God's love was ultimately shown
- the cross is how we can have access to God
- the cross is where Satan was defeated

Standing Firm in Freedom (Gal. 5:1-6)

- The battle for grace that Jesus fought.
  - the Sabbath law (had been turned into 39 volumes of tradition)
  - Galatians encountering similar issues
- "The enemy and the proud human heart is always gravitating toward a works-based salvation" - Brian Brodersen
- Christ and the law are mutually exclusive in salvation
- Paul was part of a group of only 600 Pharisees
- v. 5 - The Spirit takes over after we come to Jesus (transformation into Christ likeness)
- Legalism either makes us proud of our accomplishments or in despair over failures

Liberty and Love (Gal. 5:7-16)

- Focus on Christian liberty
- Legalism is an act of disobedience, not obedience because Christ has come
- Paul had a righteous indignation against those destroying others' faith
- "There is nothing more serious from God's viewpoint than people being led astray from the truth" - Brian Brodersen
- What is the call to liberty?
  - Freed from condemnation of law
  - Freed from bondage to performance based acceptance
  - Free in God's unfailing love
  - Free to enjoy life in God's will
- "Christian freedom is freedom from sin, not freedom to sin" - Brian Brodersen
- "All things lawful, but not all things helpful" - Corinthians

"All of the problems in the world are traced back to sin. So the cross can be the answer to all the world's problems" - Brian Brodersen

The Concept of Freedom

The concept of freedom is also a great good in German intellectual history (idealism), but it requires closer definition. Freedom *from* something experiences its fulfillment only in freedom *for* something. Freedom solely for the sake of freedom, however, leads to anarchy. Biblically, freedom means free for service to God and neighbor, freedom for obedience to the commandments of God. This presupposes freedom from every internal and external force that hinders us from this service. Thus, freedom does not mean the dissolution of all authority but rather means living under the authorities and obligations ordained and *limited* by the word of God. The question of individual freedoms—such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and so on—must first be answered in this overall context. It is a question of how far these freedoms are necessary and suitable in order to promote and assure the freedom of life according to God's commandments. For freedom is not primarily an *individual* right but a *responsibility*. Freedom is not primarily oriented toward the individual but toward the neighbor.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- If our liberty brings us back to bondage, we have abused liberty
- Love trumps liberty
- Paul then looks at how Christian life works

The Marks of a Person Glorying in Christ:
-humility (recognizing I'm a sinner saved by grace)
-Selfless Surrender to Christ -love

The Spirit and the Flesh (Gal. 5:16-21)

- This is the practical vs. doctrinal part of the epistle
- We are called to live out the implications- common in Paul's writings
- Romans 10:4 is a one sentence summary of Galatians
- The law of Christ = the law of love. New law we are under
- When the spirit is not capitalized, it is the human spirit. When it is capitalized, it is the Holy Spirit
- The flesh is always a reference to our sinful nature
- The new nature does not eradicate the old nature = conflict
- Some people believe there is a divide between the sacred and secular, but this is not part of Scripture. Everything is sacred- we can be immersed in the Spirit
- The more you feed the Spirit, the more you starve the flesh (expel darkness with light)
- The essence of materialism is that the material is all there is and therefore all that matters. Biblical view is the spiritual is what really matters
- Being in community means doing life with other believers
- Walking in the Spirit means walking in obedience
- Walk in the Spirit is always the solution
- Victory over sin is not unattainable

- With both the works of the flesh and fruit of the spirit, Paul is speaking of habitual behavior
- God won't tell us how to live through our sinful culture, but through His word
- Romans 6-8 parallels end of Galatians
- The key is the reality of the Holy Spirit
- The believer struggles against sin, the unsaved practice sin (proud of it)
- spiritual perfection won't come until our new body. But God wants us to be growing

The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

- The flesh is spoken of as works, but the spirit is fruit, which presupposes life
- Works reminds us of a factory, but fruit a garden (organic)
- Multi-faceted
- Three points on fruit:
  - The fruit is internal
  - Comes through a process (gradually)- sometimes seen in a moment
  - Fruit is inevitable
- The fruit is connected back to the root
- Spanish desfrutalo- enjoy it
- The power is in the seed of the Gospel
- Fruit is necessary evidence
- The fruit is the life of Jesus overflowing through us- not only things we do for God
- Trees can hibernate. Fruit in season (Psalm 1) -self control: self discipline like athlete
- love: Agape -joy, cheerfulness
- peace: rest/contentment -longsuffering, forbear
- kindness: the disposition -goodness, what proceeds
- Faithfulness: keep your word -gentleness -meekness